



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

May 2013

BERKS CNTY CNSV DIST  
1238 CO WELFARE RD STE 200  
LEESPORT PA 19533-0520

Re: Building Renovation Demolition and  
Asbestos Removal Requirements

Dear Municipal Official:

The purpose of this letter is to help you and your clients understand the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's regulations concerning building renovation/demolition activities and the removal of asbestos-containing materials.

Many townships and boroughs issue demolition permits, but do not understand that additional state and federal requirements apply to the demolition of certain buildings.

The Department has adopted and enforces 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart M, the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air pollutants (NESHAP) regulations. They are referenced in Chapter 124 of the Department's regulations, 25 Pa. Code Chapter 124.

Enclosed with this letter are the Department Fact Sheets entitled "Understanding Asbestos" and "Asbestos Program for Contractors Working in Pennsylvania." These fact sheets explain the health risks associated with asbestos exposure and how Pennsylvania regulates such exposure. Prior to any building renovation or demolition activities, the building must be thoroughly inspected for any asbestos-containing materials (ACM). This inspection must be conducted by someone who is licensed and certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I). For more information about L&I's licensing and certification requirements, please contact them at 717-772-3396.

Nearly all buildings built before 1970 have asbestos in them in some form. Friable asbestos might be found on boilers, heating pipes and ducts, hot water or steam tanks, structural steel for fireproofing purposes, ceilings and walls for insulation and architectural purposes, and in many other places. Non-friable asbestos might be found in floor tiles, roofing and siding shingles, wall panels or water pipes. There are over 3,200 products known to have been made with asbestos.

Notification must be made to DEP and to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for demolition of buildings subject to the NESHAP, and for any building renovation activities that involve the removal of regulated ACM subject to NESHAP regulation. Please note that notification is required for any building demolition covered by the NESHAP, even if no asbestos is present. The notification must be made on the DEP's "Asbestos Abatement and

Demolition/Renovation Notification” form. The completed form should be sent to: by mail to, Asbestos Notification, DEP Bureau of Air Quality, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468 or overnight/express/hand delivery to, Asbestos Notification, DEP Bureau of Air Quality, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. The notification form must be postmarked or hand-delivered to DEP at least 10 working days prior to the start of the demolition or asbestos removal activities. Facsimiles are not acceptable. The ten-day notification requirement may be waived by DEP if the situation constitutes an emergency. A copy of the notification should also be sent to EPA’s Region III office in Philadelphia. The proper methods for asbestos removal are quite complicated and the regulatory requirements are very strict. Please read the enclosed contractors’ fact sheet carefully, keeping in mind that it presents only a brief review of DEP’s asbestos regulations.

Please also consider posting the enclosed color poster in your municipal office in a place where it might be seen by contractors coming in to apply for building or demolition permits.

Department Air Quality staff would be glad to answer any questions you might have regarding Pennsylvania’s asbestos program. Telephone numbers are listed below:

**Harrisburg District Office (717) 705-4702:** Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry and NW Lancaster (Conoy Twp., E. Donegal Twp., Elizabethtown Boro., Marietta Boro., Mt. Joy Boro., Mt Joy Twp., Rapho Twp., W. Donegal Twp.)

**Lancaster District Office (717) 299-7601:** Berks, Lancaster (minus those municipalities listed above)

**York District Office (717) 771-4481:** Adams, York

**Altoona District Office (814) 946-7290:** Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin

Sincerely,



John Pipta  
Environmental Compliance Specialist  
Air Quality Program

Enclosures

